

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously presented) A labeled specific binding material comprising a substance capable of specifically binding to an analyte, a spacer and magnetic beads having a diameter of 0.5 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , wherein the specific binding substance is coupled to the magnetic beads via the spacer and the spacer is polyalkylene glycol having 50 to 500 repeat units.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) The labeled specific binding material according to claim 1, wherein the polyalkylene glycol is polyethylene glycol.

5. (Previously presented) The labeled specific binding material according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the spacer is bonded to the magnetic beads through an avidin/biotin complex.

6. (Previously Presented) The labeled specific binding material according to claim 1, wherein the analyte is an antigen and the substance capable of specifically binding to the analyte is an antibody.

7. (Previously Presented) A kit for detecting an analyte, comprising a labeled specific binding material according to claim 1.

8. **(Currently amended)** A method of detecting an analyte, comprising binding the analyte to ~~[[the]]~~ a labeled specific binding material ~~according to claim 1~~ to form a conjugate, washing away unreacted labeled specific binding material, and detecting a magnetic signal from the conjugate to detect the analyte, wherein

the labeled specific binding material comprising a substance capable of specifically binding to an analyte, a spacer and magnetic beads having a diameter of 0.5 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , and

wherein the specific binding substance is coupled to the magnetic beads via the spacer and the spacer is polyalkylene glycol having 50 to 500 repeat units.

9. **(New)** The method of detecting an analyte according to claim 8, wherein the polyalkylene glycol is polyethylene glycol.

10. **(New)** The method of detecting an analyte according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the spacer is bonded to the magnetic beads through an avidin/biotin complex.

11. **(New)** The method of detecting an analyte according to claim 8, wherein the analyte is an antigen and the substance capable of specifically binding to the analyte is an antibody.